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Wenatchee, WA

ORDINANCE NO. 1345

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CASHMERE, WASHINGTON, PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF CASHMERE AT THE NOVEMBER, 2026 GENERAL ELECTION OF A PROPOSITION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO INCREASE ITS REGULAR PROPERTY LEVY ABOVE THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED BY RCW 84.55.010 TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTINUAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES; SETTING FORTH THE BALLOT TITLE; REQUESTING THE CHELAN COUNTY AUDITOR PLACE THE PROPOSITION ON THE BALLOT; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Cashmere ("City") desires to continue providing necessary governmental services; and

WHEREAS, having considered the City's anticipated financial requirements for 2027 and subsequent years, and the amounts necessary and available to be raised by ad valorem taxes on real, personal, and utility property, the City is in need of additional funds to supplement existing revenue for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, after proper notice pursuant to RCW 84.55.120, the City Council held a public hearing on July 13, 2026, wherein it considered revenue sources for the City's General Fund budget for 2027 and subsequent years; and

WHEREAS, RCW 84.55.050 provides for the levy of regular property taxes in an amount exceeding the limitations imposed by RCW 84.55.010 if such levy is authorized by a ballot proposition approved by a majority of the voters at an election held within the taxing district ("levy lid lift"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council, after hearing, and after duly considering all relevant evidence and testimony presented, finds that it is in the best interest of the City of Cashmere to submit a levy lid lift proposition for their approval or rejection in order to discharge the expected expenses and obligations of the City of Cashmere; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cashmere, Washington, has a population of less than 10,000;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Cashmere, Washington do ordain as follows:

Section 1. Findings. The City Council finds as follows:

- (a) The City is limited to raising the property tax rate by no more than 1% from the highest previous levy rate, under State law;
- (b) Effective July 1, 2026, the City may increase the property tax levy rate by more than 1% for up to ten consecutive years (although the City is only proposing 6 year) if approved by a majority of the voters of the taxing district in a regularly held election; the increased levy rate may then be used to calculate maximum levy increases in future years;
- (c) The revenue available to the City under the current levy rates and anticipated 1% increases for 2027 and future years will be insufficient to provide for the level of public services that are required by the community;
- (d) Approving a multi-year levy lid lift through a single election will allow City officials to plan revenue and expenses for the foreseeable future and avoid administrative costs of preparing multiple ballot propositions;
- (e) It is in the best interests of the City and its residents to request voter approval of a levy lid lift proposition to expand revenue and continue providing essential public services.

Section 2. Levy Lid Lift Election Called For. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050, the City Council hereby calls for submission of a proposition to the qualified electors of the City to establish whether the City shall levy regular property taxes in excess of the limitations established in RCW 84.55.010. The Chelan County Auditor is requested to conduct the election in the City of Cashmere on November 3, 2026. The proposition to be submitted to the voters for their approval or rejection is to authorize an increase in the City's regular property tax levy by \$0.13 per \$1,000 assessed value, to a total regular property tax levy rate of \$1.5737 per \$1,000 assessed value, for collection beginning January 1, 2027. The levy rate shall increase no more than 9% each year from 2028 to 2032. The 2032 levy rate would be used to calculate subsequent levy limits in future years as contemplated by RCW 84.55.010.

Section 2. Purpose of Levy. The purpose of the levy lid lift is to provide for the continual provision of services that ensure public safety, including law enforcement, fire protection, disaster mitigation, and other necessary government services.

Section 3. Ballot Proposition. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to certify a proposition to the Chelan County Auditor or other designated supervisor of elections in Chelan County, Washinton, in substantially the following form:

CITY OF CASHMERE
PROPOSITION NO. 1

PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES LEVY LID LIFT

The City Council for the City of Cashmere has called for a ballot proposition to provide for continual operation of essential government services. If approved, this proposition would increase the City's regular property tax rate to \$1.5737 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2027, and authorize a maximum levy rate increase of 9% each year from 2028 to 2032. The 2032 levy rate will be used to determine the maximum levy rates under 84.55 RCW.

Should this proposition be approved?

YES _____

NO _____

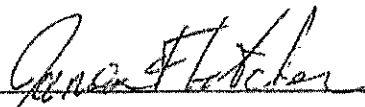
Section 4. Authorization to Perform Required Duties to Place Proposition on Ballot. The City Clerk and Mayor are authorized to undertake such duties as may be necessary to submit the proposition to the voters, including making minor adjustments to the wording and formatting of such proposition as may be recommended by the County Auditor, so long as the intent of the proposition remains clear and consistent with the language and intent of this ordinance.

Section 5. Severability. If any section, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

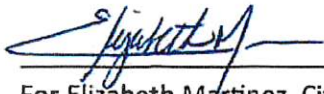
Section 6. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force five (5) days after this Ordinance or a summary thereof consisting of the title is published.

Passed by the City Council of the City of Cashmere and approved by the Mayor this 13th day of July, 2026.

CITY OF CASHMERE

By: 
Jim Fletcher, Mayor

Attest:



For Elizabeth Martinez, City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved as to form:



Julie K. Norton, City Attorney

Ordinance No: 1345

Passed by the City Council: July 13, 2026

Published in the Cashmere Valley Record: June 24, 2026

Effective date: July 13, 2026